THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b)The assistance is provided every year subject to certain conditions like submission of utilization certificate etc.

(c) The details of the assistance provided to Uttaranchal during the last three years is as follows. (The State has come into existence in November, 2000).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Financial Assistance
2000-01	56.40
2001-02	74.50
2002-03	98.07

(d) and (e) The actual expenditure during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) for Forest Fire and Control Measures was Rs.27.69 crores for the entire country. The outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan has been estimated at Rs. 115 crores. This implies higher assistance for various States including Uttaranchal subject to fulfilment of conditions like submission of utilisation certificates, funding of State share etc.

Poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake

1143. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the State Government of Orissa to curb poaching of waterfowl in the Chilka Lake; and

(b) the details of the organizations in the Non-Governmental sector actively involved in prevention of poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake since 2000?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The following steps have been taken by the Government of Orissa to curb the poaching of waterfowl in the Chilka Lake:

(i) Anti-poaching squads have been formed by drawing volunteers from the local fishermens' cooperative societies at 6 strategically located spots in the areas vulnerable to poaching of birds.

(ii) Regular partrolling is done by armed Forest Officials in the bird congregation areas.

(Hi) Strict vigilance is being maintained on the roadside eating houses through a newtwork of paid informers.

(iv) Appropriate publicity has been given to inform public to refrain from eating bird meat.

(v) Motivation campaign has been launched, amoung fishermen and other locals who depend on the lake for their livelihood, regarding role of birds in the ecosystem and their contribution to the fisheries resource.

(b) 'Matsyajivi Mahasangh', 'Matsyajivi Mahila Mahasangh', 'Wild Orissa' and 22 bird protection committees formed by local villagers around Chilka Lake are the organisations in the Non-Government sector that are actively involved in prevention of poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake.

Improvement in technical education

1144. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a recent policy shift or improvement in technical education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such changes have taken into account the rulings of the Supreme Court of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRI A): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), they have recently taken policy decision on Centralised Admission Process in technical education system. AICTE has issued guidelines for Common Entrance Test for admission during the academic year 2004-05 to (i) MBA/PGDBA (equivalent programmes); (ii) MCA programmes; (iii) Degree Level Course in Engineering, Architecture/Planning and Pharmacy programmes. According to these